

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable polymer ~~substantially soluble in water and~~ consisting essentially of the following in percent by weight:
- a) 8 to 80% of a high amylose starch modified to include a hydroxyalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a carboxylic acid,
 - b) 4 to 11% of a water soluble polymer selected from polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol or a mixture thereof,
 - c) 0 to 12% added water,
 - d) 0 to 12% of a polyol plasticizer,
 - e) 0.1 to 1.5% of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid salt,
 - f) the balance being an unmodified natural starch.

12. (Previously presented) A biodegradable polymer as claimed in claim 11 wherein component e) comprises stearic acid or a salt thereof.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Previously presented) A biodegradable polymer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the polyol plasticizer comprises glycerol.

15. (Previously presented) A biodegradable polymer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the polyol plasticizer content is zero and added water is from 10 to 12%.

Claim 16 -19 (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable polymer ~~substantially soluble in water~~ and suitable for use in thermoforming rigid packaging products, said polymer consisting essentially of the following in percent by weight: a) 8-80% high amylose starch modified to include a hydroxyalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a carboxylic acid; b) 4-11% of a water soluble polymer comprising polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol or a mixture thereof; c) up to 12% added water; d) 0.4 to 1.2% of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid or a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid salt.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable polymer ~~substantially soluble~~ that has been adapted to form a film, said polymer composition consisting essentially of, in percent by weight:

- a) 8 to 80% of a high amylose starch modified to include a hydroxyalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a carboxylic acid
- b) 4 to 11% of a water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinyl alcohol
- c) 10 to 16% of a polyol plasticizer
- d) up to 12% added water
- e) 0.1 to 1.5% of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid or a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid salt
- f) the balance being an unmodified natural starch.

23. (Previously Presented) A biodegradable polymer as claimed in claim 22 wherein component e) comprises stearic acid.

24. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 22 wherein component b) comprises a polyvinyl alcohol.

Claims 25-53 (Cancelled).